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H I S
MAJESTY'S
M O S T
GRACIOUS SPEECH
T O B O T H
H O U S E S
O F
P A R L I A M E N T,
O N
THURSDAY THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF
NOVEMBER, M.DCC.LXII.

GLASGOW:
PRINTED BY ROBERT AND ANDREW FOULIS
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY
M.DCC.LXII.

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MAJESTY

WOST

GRACIOUS SPEECH

TO BOTH

HOUSE



P. A. R. M. E. N. T.

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THURSDAY THE TWENTY-NINTH DAY

NOVEMBER, MDCCLXXXII

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M. DCC. LXXXII

HIS MAJESTY'S
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MOST
GRACIOUS SPEECH
TO BOTH
HOUSES
OF
PARLIAMENT.

MY LORDS, AND GENTLEMEN,

I FOUND, on my accession to the throne, these my kingdoms engaged in a bloody and expensive war. I resolved to prosecute it with the utmost vigour; determined, however, to consent to

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peace, upon just and honourable terms, whenever the events of war should incline the enemy to the same pacific disposition.

A negotiation was accordingly begun last year, which proved ineffectual. The war became afterwards more general, by the resolution of the court of Madrid to take part with my enemy, notwithstanding my best endeavours to prevent it.

This, with the unexpected attack of my natural and good ally the king of Portugal, greatly af-

fectcd our commerce, multiplied the objects of our military operations, and increased our difficulties, by adding to the heavy burdens under which this country already laboured.

My object still continued the same, to attain an honourable peace, by pursuing this more extensive war in the most vigorous manner. I embraced therefore an occasion offered me, of renewing the negotiation; but at the same time I exerted so effectually the strength which you had put into my hands,

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and have been so well served by my fleets and armies in the execution of my plans, that history cannot furnish examples of greater glory, or greater advantages acquired by the arms of this, or any other nation, in so short a period of time. My General Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and my army in Germany, have gained immortal honour by many signal advantages obtained during the course of this campaign, over an enemy superior in numbers. The progress of the French and Spa-

nish arms in Portugal has been
stopt; and that kingdom preserv-
ed by the firmness and resolution
of its Sovereign, and by the mili-
tary talents of the reigning Count
La Lippe, seconded by the valour
of the troops under his command.
Martinico, and other islands in the
West Indies, have been conquered;
the Havannah, a place of the ut-
most importance to Spain, is in
my possession; and with it great
treasures, and a very considerable
part of the navy of Spain, are
fallen into our hands.

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I cannot mention these achievements, which reflect such honour on my crown, without giving my public testimony to the unwearied perseverance, and unparalleled bravery of my officers and private men, by sea and land, who, by repeated proofs, have shewn, that no climate, no hardships, no dangers, can check the ardor, or resist the valour of the British arms.

Next to the assistance of Almighty God, it is owing to their conduct and courage, that my enemies have been brought to ac-

cept of peace on such terms, as, I trust, will give my Parliament entire satisfaction. Preliminary articles have been signed by my minister, with those of France and Spain, which I will order in due time to be laid before you.

The conditions of these are such, that there is not only an immense territory added to the empire of Great Britain, but a solid foundation laid for the increase of trade and commerce; and the utmost care has been taken to remove all occasions of future dif-

putes between my subjects, and those of France and Spain, and thereby to add security and permanency to the blessings of peace.

While I carefully attended to the essential interests of my own kingdoms, I have had the utmost regard to the good faith of my crown, and the interests of my allies. I have made peace for the King of Portugal, securing to him all his dominions; and all the territories of the King of Prussia, as well as of my other allies in Germany, or elsewhere, occupied

HIS MAJESTY'S SPEECH. 11

by the armies of France, are to be immediately evacuated.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF
COMMONS,

I have ordered the proper estimates to be laid before you; and shall, without delay, proceed to make reductions to the utmost extent, wherever they may be found consistent with wisdom and sound policy. It is the greatest affliction for me to find, that, though the war is at an end, our expences cannot immediately be so much

lessened as I desire; but as nothing could have carried us through the great and arduous difficulties surrounding us, but the most vigorous and expensive efforts, we must expect, for some time, to feel the consequences of them to a considerable degree.

MY LORDS, AND GENTLEMEN,

It was impossible to execute what this nation has so gloriously performed in all parts of the world, without the loss of great numbers of men. When you consider this

loss, whether on the principles of policy or humanity, you will see one of the many reasons which induced me to enter early into negotiation, so as to make a considerable progress in it, before the fate of many operations was determined; and now to hasten the conclusion of it, to prevent the necessity of making preparations for another campaign. As by this peace my territories are greatly augmented, and new sources opened for trade and manufactures, it is my earnest desire, that you would

consider of such methods in the settlements of our new acquisitions, as shall most effectually tend to the security of those countries, and to the improvement of the commerce and navigation of Great Britain. I cannot mention our acquisitions, without earnestly recommending to your care and attention my gallant subjects, by whose valour they were made.

We could never have carried on this extensive war, without the greatest union at home. You will find the same union peculiarly ne-

cessary, in order to make the best use of the great advantages acquired by the peace; and to lay the foundation of that oeconomy which we owe to ourselves, and to our posterity, and which can alone relieve this nation, from the heavy burdens brought upon it by the necessities of this long and expensive war.

F I N I S.

THE MAJESTY OF THE KING

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